

Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021

A national perspective:

- The religion question is voluntary; 94.0% (56.0 million) of usual residents answered the question in 2021, an increase from 92.9% (52.1 million) in 2011.
- For the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half of the population (46.2%, 27.5 million people) described themselves as “Christian”, a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3% (33.3 million) in 2011; despite this decrease, “Christian” remained the most common response to the religion question.
- “No religion” was the second most common response, increasing by 12.0 percentage points to 37.2% (22.2 million) from 25.2% (14.1 million) in 2011.
- London remains the most religiously diverse region of England in 2021, with over a quarter (25.3%) of all usual residents reporting a religion other than “Christian”; the North East and South West are the least religiously diverse regions, with 4.2% and 3.2%, respectively, selecting a religion other than “Christian”.

Religious Composition 2011 and 2021 (England and Wales)

Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

Other Religions in 2021 (England and Wales)

The groups above correspond to the tick-box responses for the religion question. A person could also identify their religion through the "Any other religion, write in" response option. This write-in functionality providing insights for 58 religious groups.

Among the 405,000 (0.7% of the overall population in England and Wales) who chose to write-in a response through the "Any other religion" option were the following religions:

- Pagan (74,000)
- Alevi (26,000)
- Jain (25,000)
- Wicca (13,000)
- Ravidassia (10,000)
- Shamanism (8,000)
- Rastafarian (6,000)
- Zoroastrian (4,000)

The largest increase was seen in those describing their religion as "Shamanism", increasing more than tenfold to 8,000 from 650 in 2011.

Of those who wrote-in a non-religious group to "Any other religion", the largest numbers were:

- Agnostic (32,000)
- Atheist (14,000)
- Humanist (10,000)

(source – [here](#))

A Northumberland Perspective:

Northumberland			National
Religion	Number	%	%
No religion	128703	40.1	37.2
Christian	170668	53.2	46.2
Buddhist	752	0.2	0.5
Hindu	446	0.1	1.7
Jewish	172	0.1	0.5
Muslim	1635	0.5	6.5
Sikh	654	0.2	0.9
Other religion	1353	0.4	0.6
Not answered	16181	5	6
Total	320564	99.8	100.1

You can find the Northumberland data here -

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/identity/religion/religion-tb/not-answered?lad=E06000057>

The data can be interrogated at different geographical areas as required.